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Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), our over 1.5 million donors and, most importantly, the many thousands of animals whose lives we improve each and every year. We rely on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our supporters. Direct mail is, without question, essential to both our fundraising and public education efforts. Without the mail, our work would suffer and, as a consequence, so could animals all around the country.

We simply do not understand why suddenly there is a need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, increases such as those proposed here by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget for next year will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, potentially, a reduction in our ability to help animals. Respectfully, we ask you to consider these consequences.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates. Implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago, we see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail. I greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia Meulenstein".

Alicia Meulenstein  
Vice President, Direct Response & Stewardship  
ASPCA